AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a decorative pre-impregnated sheet, comprising:
providing a decorative layer;
applying a mixture comprising a thermohardening synthetic resin and hard particles to the decorative layer;
applying a wax or a mixture of waxes having a melting range below a temperature of about 140°C to the decorative layer, or to the mixture, and
drying the applied mixture at a drying temperature above the melting range of the wax.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising pressing the decorative layer, the mixture and the wax in a hot press at a press temperature to form a laminate.

3. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a decorative laminate comprising:
providing a decorative layer,
applying a mixture comprising a thermohardening synthetic resin and hard particles to the decorative layer,
applying a wax or a mixture of waxes having a melting range below a temperature of about 140°C to the decorative layer or to the mixture, and
pressing the decorative layer, the mixture and the wax in a hot press at a press temperature to form a laminate.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a decorative laminate, comprising:

providing a decorative layer,

applying a mixture comprising at least a thermohardening synthetic resin and hard particles to the decorative layer,

applying a wax or mixture of waxes to the decorative layer or to the mixture, and

pressing the decorative layer, the mixture and the wax in a hot press at a press temperature to form a laminate,

wherein a melting range of the wax is by more than about 50°C below the press temperature.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a decorative laminate, comprising:

providing a decorative layer,

applying a mixture comprising a thermohardening synthetic resin and hard particles to the decorative layer,

applying at least one wax to the decorative layer or to the mixture, [[and]]

pressing [[the]] a supporting substrate, the decorative layer, the mixture and the wax in a hot press at a press temperature to form a decorative laminate board,

wherein a melting range of the at least one wax is at least one of below a temperature of about 140°C and by more than 50°C below the press temperature; and

drying the applied mixture at a drying temperature above the melting range of the wax.

6. – 78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the melting range is by more than 60°C lower than the press temperature.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein a dwell time in the press is from about 4 to 60 seconds.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein a pressure of the press is less than 50 bars.

82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the press temperature is at least equal to or higher than a hardening temperature suitable for hardening the at least one synthetic resin.

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the at least one wax has a melting viscosity of less than 75 mPa·s at the press temperature.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising drying the decorative layer with the applied mixture before the pressing, and at a drying temperature within a drying temperature range below the press temperature.

85. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 84, wherein the drying is carried out until a remaining water content is 7% ~~at most, in particular at least 6%~~ or less.

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 84, wherein the drying temperature range is about 140°C to 190°C.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 84, wherein during the drying, the drying temperature initially has an increasing temperature profile and thereafter a decreasing temperature profile.

89. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 84, wherein a drying time is from 1 to 3 minutes.

90. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the application of the wax is carried out together with the application of the mixture.

91. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 90, wherein the wax is a component of the mixture.

92. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the melting range of the wax is above 60°C.

93. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein at least 90% of the hard particles have a size below 80 μm.

94. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the thermohardening synthetic resin is a melamine resin.

95. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the hard particles are aluminium oxide particles.

96. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the wax is a ~~Fisher~~ Fischer-Tropsch-Wax.

97. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the at least one wax is comprised in the mixture in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 weight percent of the mixture.

98. – 110. (Cancelled)

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising arranging the decorative layer on a supporting substrate.

112. (Cancelled)

113. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein the drying is carried out until a remaining water content is 6% or less.

114. (New) A method for producing a decorative laminate, comprising:

providing a decorative layer,

applying a mixture comprising a thermohardening synthetic resin and hard particles to the decorative layer,

applying at least one wax to the decorative layer or to the mixture,

drying the decorative layer with the applied mixture before the pressing, and at a drying temperature within a drying temperature range below the press temperature,

wherein a drying time is from 1 to 3 minutes; and

pressing a supporting substrate, the decorative layer, the mixture and the wax in a hot press at a press temperature to form a decorative laminate board,

wherein a melting range of the at least one wax is at least one of below a temperature of about 140°C and by more than 50°C below the press temperature.

115. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the melting range is by more than 60°C lower than the press temperature.

116. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein a dwell time in the press is from about 4 to 60 seconds.

117. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein a pressure of the press is less than 50 bars.

118. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the press temperature is at least equal to or higher than a hardening temperature suitable for hardening the at least one synthetic resin.

119. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the at least one wax has a melting viscosity of less than 75 mPa·s at the press temperature.

120. (New) The method according to claim 114, further comprising drying the decorative layer with the applied mixture before the pressing, and at a drying temperature within a drying temperature range below the press temperature.

121. (New) The method according to claim 120, wherein the drying is carried out until a remaining water content is 7% or less.

122. (New) The method according to claim 120, wherein the melting range of the wax is below the drying temperature.

123. (New) The method according to claim 120, wherein the drying temperature range is about 140°C to 190°C.

124. (New) The method according to claim 120, wherein during the drying, the drying temperature initially has an increasing temperature profile and thereafter a decreasing temperature profile.

125. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the application of the wax is carried out together with the application of the mixture.

126. (New) The method according to claim 125, wherein the wax is a component of the mixture.

127. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the melting range of the wax is above 60°C.

128. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein at least 90% of the hard particles have a size below 80 μm.

129. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the thermohardening synthetic resin is a melamine resin.

130. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the hard particles are aluminium oxide particles.

131. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the wax is a Fischer-Tropsch-Wax.

132. (New) The method according to claim 114, wherein the at least one wax is comprised in the mixture in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 weight percent of the mixture.

133. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising arranging the decorative layer on a supporting substrate.

134. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising drying the applied mixture at a drying temperature above the melting range of the wax.

135. (New) The method according to claim 120, wherein the drying is carried out until a remaining water content is 6% or less.